

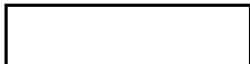
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17 September 1979

NOTE FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM :



SUBJECT : Press Coverage of Soviet Military Presence - Cuba

1. The library has now completed its research of the New York Times from 1963-1975. Only two additional references to the Soviet troop presence were found.

2. In a six-hour conversation with C. L. Sulzberger, reported on 8 November 1964, Castro replied to a question on whether any of the Soviet military personnel were combat troops:

"They are certainly not military tourists. All military technicians have a military capability and would fight in case of an aggression. The function of the Russians here is as technical advisors, but if Cuba were attacked they would serve as combat forces."

"Asked how large a combat force the Soviet personnel constituted, he answered that 'enough are left to form a solid combat force.'"

The statement lends weight to the argument that Castro might look on the military presence as a commitment that provided him security against a U.S. invasion and that their mission, in part, had to be a combat one.

3. The only other reference we have found is an 8 October 1969 statement by Governor Rockefeller to the effect that in a report he made to Nixon and Kissinger (he had just returned from Latin America) he indicated there were "6,000 Soviet troops in Cuba." I am still trying to get a line on what INR and the NSC Staff themselves might have been writing on the Soviets in Cuba.



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